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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/505,598	02/16/2000	Arnold M. Escano	ENDOV-48232	6592

24201 7590 01/29/2002

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP
HOWARD HUGHES CENTER
6060 CENTER DRIVE
TENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90045

EXAMINER

BLANCO, JAVIER G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3738

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/505,598

Applicant(s)

ESCANO ET AL.

Examiner

Javier G. Blanco

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 February 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.
2. Figure 3 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show "superior pull ring 104" and "superior release wire 106" as described in the specification (page 24, lines 1-2). Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 23, 37, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 23 recites the limitation "the release wire" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 37 recites the limitation "the snare catheter" in line 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 39 recites the limitation "the third pullwire" in lines 7-8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

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5. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The “hollow metal cylinder attached within the main catheter and encompassing at least a portion of the bifurcated graft” was not disclosed in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Quiachon et al. (US 5,628,783). Quiachon et al. disclose an apparatus and method for intraluminally delivering or deploying a bifurcated graft proximate the abdominal aortic bifurcation. The apparatus and method meet all the limitation of claims 1-40 (see whole text and Figures 1-36).

8. Claims 1-6, 11-13, 15, 19, 21, 25-31, 33, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Piplani et al. (US 5,489,295). Regarding claim 1, Piplani et al. disclose an apparatus and method for intraluminally deploying a bifurcated graft 20 into a lumen formed by a wall proximate a vascular bifurcation having an aneurysm. The bifurcated graft 20 comprises main cylindrical body 112, first tubular leg 116, and second tubular leg 117. A main catheter or capsule catheter 26, having a diameter ranging from 6-9 mm, houses the bifurcated graft, a set of positioning mechanisms, and a set attaching mechanisms (see Abstract; column 2, lines 7-46; column 3, lines 7-9; Figure 1). Regarding claims 2, 5, 6, and 11, the attaching mechanisms

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include expandable anchor or spring attachment means 126, 127, and 163 (having hook-like vessel engaging elements 141) attached to main cylindrical body 112, to first tubular leg 116, and to second tubular leg 117 respectively (see column 5, lines 29-67; column 10, lines 21-35; Figures 4, 8, and 17). Regarding claim 4, the attaching mechanisms also include a balloon catheter assembly 71 capable of expanding the expandable spring attachment means (see column 2, lines 19-34; Figures 1 and 5). Regarding claim 3, the attaching mechanisms further include a stabilization wire 89 and a stabilization button 106 carried by the tubular member or catheter shaft 72 to constrict the expandable anchor in an unexpanded condition (see column 9, lines 2-10; Figure 5). Regarding claims 12 and 15, the set of positioning mechanisms includes a main guidewire 91 configured as a stiffened rod (see Figure 1). Regarding claims 13, 19, and 21, the set of positioning mechanisms of second tubular leg 117 includes a guidewire 196 that could be removably attached to second tubular leg 117 (see column 10, lines 9-26; Figure 18), secondary catheters (capsule catheter 161 and balloon catheter 162) encompassing at least a portion of the second tubular leg 117, and an expandable spring mechanism 163 at least partially encompassed by the secondary catheter (see column 10, lines 9-35; Figure 6). The attaching mechanism of secondary catheter includes a stabilization button 216 carried by the tubular member 176 to constrict the expandable anchor 163 in an unexpanded condition (see column 10, lines 21-35; Figure 6).

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javier G. Blanco whose telephone number is 703-605-4259. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.), first Friday off.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on 703-308-2111. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.



JGB

January 17, 2002



David H. Willse
Primary Examiner

Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)
6/18/01

The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.